

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-04 AGR-05 EA-06 SWF-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

FRB-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 COME-00 /096 W

----- 076991

R 121130Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4170

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USUN NEW YORK 903

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0759

E.O. 111652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ

SUBJECT: LUSAKA MINICOM MEETING: DISCUSSION OF MOZAMBIQUE

DEPT PASS ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP; PARIS FOR MELONE

FROM ASST SECY EASUM

1. MEETING OF SIX US AMBASSADORS, TWO CONSULS GENERAL AND MYSELF
HELD IN LUSAKA NOVEMBER 5-6 AGREED ON FOLLOWING ANALYSIS OF CURRENT
SITUATION AND RECOMMENDED US POLICY STANCE REGARDING MOZAMBIQUE:

2. FRELIMO IS CLEARLY OVERWHELMINGLY PREOCCUPIED WITH ORGANIZING
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AND STRENGTHENING ITS INFRA-STRUCTURE AND ITS IMAGE THROUGHOUT THE

COUNTRY. IT IS OPERATING EXTREMELY THIN. ONE EXAMPLE WAS CITED WHERE THERE WERE ONLY TWO FRELIIMO ORGANIZERS AND A SMALL HANDFUL OF TROOPS IN A CITY OF 50,000. THOSE WHO OPPOSE FRELIIMO, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, STILL HAVE IMPORTANT POTENTIAL FOR CAUSING TROUBLE.

3. FRELIIMO'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE CONTINUING TO BE HANDLED IN LARGE PART FROM DAR ES SALAAM FOR THE PRESENT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW AND WHERE FOREIGN CONTACTS WITH MOZAMBIQUE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE HANDLED.

4. ECONOMICALLY THE PICTURE IS THUS FAR NOT AS BAD AS HAD BEEN PICTURED AND FEARED. THIS IS BECAUSE OF HIGH PRICES FOR SUCH CROPS AS CASHEWS, COTTON AND SUGAR. HOWEVER, SITUATION COULD DETERIORATE CONSIDERABLY AND SOON WITH THE CONTINUING EXODUS OF PORTUGUESE ENTREPRENEURS, OFFICIALS, TECHNICIANS AND PROFESSIONALS. FINANCIAL SIDE IS GRIM WITH LARGE EXTERNAL DEBT (FRELIIMO PRESIDENT MACHEL SAYS \$900 MILLION) OF WHICH \$200 MILLION IS OWED TO PORTUGAL. ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS TO BE IN NO HURRY TO PAY OFF PORTUGAL, FRELIIMO WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN INDEPENDENCE WITH CLEAN SLATE IN RESPECT TO THE FORMER METROPOLE AND IS THEREFORE LOOKING FOR A SOFT LONG-TERM LOAN. THERE IS NO EVIDENT US OR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL SOURCE FOR SUCH A LARGE SUM. CHINA MIGHT BE A POSSIBLE CREDITOR.

5. IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE SOVIET AND CHINESE ROLES IN THE NEW MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE CLARIFIED. MACHEL TOLD EASUM THAT FRELIIMO IMMENSELY GRATEFUL TO USSR AND CHINA FOR THEIR GENEROUS ASSISTANCE DURING THE INSURGENCY PERIOD. IMPLICATION IS THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WILL HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE IN MOZAMBIQUE'S FUTURE. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, FRELIIMO CURRENTLY CLEARLY SEEKING WESTERN AID AND MAY TRY TO PLAY ONE SIDE AGAINST THE OTHER. FRELIIMO UNLIKELY TO COMMIT ITSELF IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO A PREDOMINANT ROLE FOR ANY SINGLE FOREIGN POWER IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR MILITARY FIELDS.

6. FUTURE FOR CONTINUED REFUELING BY US NAVY AT LOURENCO MARQUES IS CLOUDED. WHILE FRELIIMO'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY SHOULD PRECLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, IT COULD ALSO RESULT IN CURTAILMENT OF PORT CALLS FOR US NAVY
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(SOME FIFTEEN CALLS WERE MADE IN 1973-74). A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO WOULD BE PORT CALLS FOR BOTH USSR AND US. ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS ARE POSED BY DEPARTURE OF PORT TECHNICIANS, CONGESTION, FUEL SHORTAGES, AND POLITICAL UNREST IN LOURENCO MARQUES.

7. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT BEST WAY SAFEGUARD US SHORT-TERM INTERESTS IN MOZAMBIQUE WOULD BE BY DEMONSTRATING RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO CONTRIBUTING TO PRIORITY NEEDS OF NEW

NATION. WE MUST RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN WINNING FRELIMO CONFIDENCE AND OVERCOMING DEEP-SEATED SUSPICIONS OF US INTENTIONS. WE MUST THUS SEEK OPPORTUNITIES REASSURE FRELIMO LEADERS, IN BOTH ACTION AND WORD, THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION INTERFERING IN MOZAMBIQUE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO STYLE AND ORCHESTRATION OF OUR APPROACH TO AID QUESTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR INSURE THAT ANY US ECONOMIC OR OTHER ASSISTANCE NOT RPT NOT APPEAR AS REACTION TO SOVIET OR CHINESE INFLUENCE. IT SHOULD STAND ON ITS OWN MERITS. ONE AREA WHERE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS THOUGHT US ASSISTANCE COULD PROVIDE PARTICULARLY USEFUL CONTRIBUTION WAS TRAINING OF CADRES OF MOZAMBICANS DESPERATELY NEEDED IN SKILLED SECTOR AS MORE AND MORE PORTUGUESE LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HURD

NOTE BY OC/T: CAPE TOWN 0759 NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MISSION CHIEFS MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY PLANS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAPET00759
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740325-1126
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741152/aaaabrnw.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LUSAKA MINICOM MEETING: DISCUSSION OF MOZAMBIQUE DEPT PASS ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005